THE LAKE CREEK LETTER

A Publication of the Lake Creek Historical Society

Volume 16, Number 2 Fall 2008

'Crater Rock Museum Visits Lake Creek'

Oregon provides many diversions, one of which is rock hunting. The best source for rock education in Southern Oregon is our very own Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Society, which owns and operates the Crater Rock Museum, located at 2002 Scenic Avenue in Central Point, Oregon. The Crater Rock Museum has been providing services such as classes and fieldtrips for over 50 years.

On Sunday, June 29th the Lake Creek Historical Society sponsored a Rock Hound Show put on by the Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Society at the Pioneer Hall. Over forty people came out to learn more about the indigenes rocks of Oregon. To their surprise and delight, the Lake Creek residents learned that a Fossil Leaf site is located right here in our own back yard.

The Lake Creek fossil beds are found on the hillside of Soda Creek Road, off South Fork Little Butte Creek Road. A copy of the map may be obtained either through the local BLM office, the Crater Rock Museum or the Lake Creek Historical Society at Pioneer Hall.

Identifying Leaf Fossils- The fossil leaf imprints are found in a light colored, very fine grained, volcanic ash. This deposit was possibly formed by a small lake that slowly filled with volcanic ash and leaves from surrounding trees. For those interested in collecting some fossils, you will need a hammer and pick to break open the rocks to expose the fossil leafs. You should also bring a bucket to carry them in. Back packs have proven to be more painful than helpful in this type of recreation.

The Lake Creek Historical Society would be happy to learn about your adventure and findings. Stop in the Pioneer Hall and say hello when visiting Lake Creek.

The Crater Rock Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday; Hours are 10am to 4pm. For more information such as becoming a member or joining their next fieldtrip, phone (541) 664-6081.

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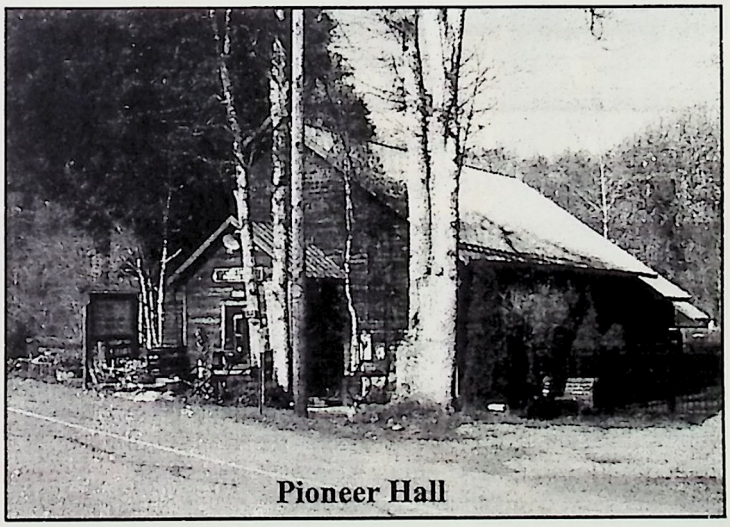

Pioneer Hall

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Lake Creek Historical Society sends a big thank you to Cathrine Boyd and the Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Society for sharing a little bit of Oregon's great history.

By Kathy Barlow

Events at Pioneer Hall

Lake Creek Pioneer Festival

Every year the Lake Creek Historical Society shares a bit of our history from the1850's, the time in which pioneers settled in Southern Oregon. Through demonstrations and displays we hope to take you back in time and show you what life was like.

The Lake Creek Historical Society would like to thank the Little Butte Mountain Men, the Spinners and Weavers of the Rogue Valley, the American Sewers Guild, the Food Preservers Organization through the Jackson County Extension Service, Bill Newport from the Central Point Wood Carvers, Black Smith Demonstrations by Jim Collier, Fast-Turn Co. with quilts display, Hugh Simpson with his unique knife collection and music, local history display by Shirley Stone, Gold Panning provided by Aaron & Brandon Grissom and Children's Games with Katie & Daniel Grissom. Much thanks to Fay Keene for all her valuable time and effort, and Dian Seitz and Betsy Sarthou for their help. Thank you to the Wild West BBQ Company and Steve Pinnell for providing lunch to several hundred visitors. And a special thank you to Bill and Maxine Jackson for providing the Popcorn Machine and supplies as a fundraiser to the hall.

Visitors thought it was really nice to see history being preserved and that there were hands on demonstrations and not just a lecture. One of the demonstrators, Hugh Simpson, had an interesting knife display; many of them were custom made. He also played the Indian Flute and the 'Squeeze Box' for the enjoyment of the crowd.

To all of you that helped make this event happen, we extend a great big Thank You!

An Evening in the Park with Jason Johnston and Michael Boren

On September 5th, the Lake Creek Historical Society hosted a concert in the park, featuring the Jason Johnston Band and Michael Boren. The fundraiser for the Lake Creek Historical Society was a great success.

Both Jason and Michael have been singing in the Rogue Valley for many years. This evening they shared many of the songs they wrote or co-wrote with each other. It was a beautiful evening and many folks came out and enjoyed the music and creek side park.

We would like to extend a thank you to BarbWire Café, Valley Feed, Food Vendor Steve Pinnell, advertisers - Upper Rogue Independent, Medford Mail Tribune, KRWQ Radio Station, Big R, Grange Co-Op in Central Point and Cascade Ranch for making this event possible.

The support of our community is greatly needed and appreciated.

Community Yard Sale BBQ Dinner & Concert

The annual community yard sale was held August 23. The Historical Society raised $378 from the fundraiser BBQ dinner/concert and yard sale proceeds. Thank you Lake Creek for the donated items.

The band "Diamonds and Denim" starring Julie Millard Griffith, played country & western and older rock n roll music. The evening was very enjoyable. Whole families were dancing to the music. Thank you to the Lake Creek Historical Society board of directors, Gregg Grissom, Bill & Maxine Jackson, Fay Keene, Dwight Pech, Kim Scilippe (husband John and children Sarah and Ben.), Shirl Bandy, Kathy and Kit Barlow and kids, Daniel, Katie and Brandon Grissom for your food donations and your labor in fixing the meal of the evening and work putting on the yard sale. A special thank you to Tim Finch for providing his BBQ and for being our head cook and Richard Bandy for being assistant cook for the evening. It is people like you that help keep our Historical Society alive.

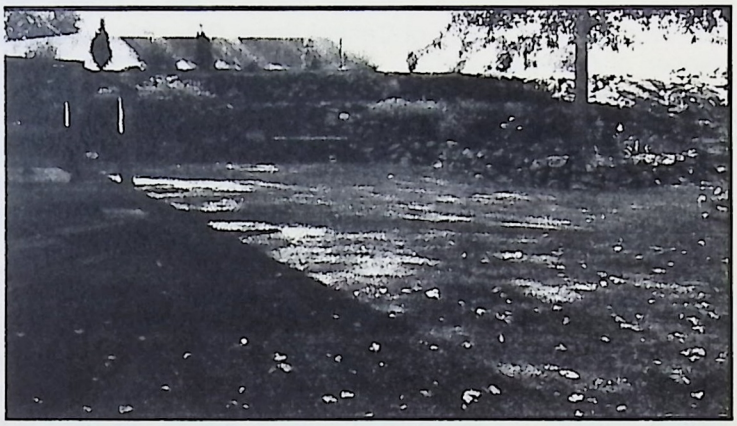
Local Cowgirl wins BIG!!!

Leandra Millard, 10 years old just won her third All-Around saddle. She competed at the Red Bluff Junior Round-Up September 6 & 7 2008. Where she came home with the Champion Goat Tying buckle, the Champion Pole Bending buckle, 2nd place in the Barrel Racing, and 3rd place in the single stake. This giving her the All-Around Junior Saddle.

Congratulations Leandra!!

Lake Creek Patio Yard Project

For several years the patio yard has been in disrepair. Kathy Barlow spearheaded the renovation project. We are looking at new ways of attracting both the community and visitors to our location. We hope you will take advantage of its beauty and availability; for weddings, graduations, birthdays or just a picnic lunch with your sweetheart.



The Lake Creek Historical Society would like to thank the many contributors who helped create the New Patio Yard, situated to the left of the Pioneer Hall.

Hilltop Landscaping
Robert Watson and Hall Penninger
Grange Co-Op
Hughes Brothers Construction
Panther Crushing
Billy Frazier
Cascade Nursery
Doveland Nursery
Cascade Ranch
Valley Feed
Fred Cox
CAD
Hilton Fuel
Statue Maker
Scott & Aaron Grissom
Dwight Pech
Christopher Thomson
Kit Barlow installed the irrigation system.
Fay Keene & Kathy Barlow for collecting and hauling 9,000 lbs. of Moss Rock.

Planting Crew:
Bob Lacy
Russ Pemberton
Anna Arritola
Fay Keene
Rex & Diane West
Austin Backus
Mary & Richard Czarapata
Joy Lacy for a warm coffee cake.
Bill & Maxine Jackson for donating use of truck to haul soil.

Obituaries

Margaret (Walch) Hansen

Margaret Hansen was born June 12, 1920 in Lake Creek, Oregon and passed away at her home in Brownsboro, Oregon, June 20, 2008.

Margaret grew up in Lake Creek at her pioneer parent's ranch, John and Marie Newstrom Walch, and went to Lost Creek School, through the eighth grade. Margaret stayed home and helped on the ranch until the late 1930's. Then she went to work in Klamath Falls at her aunt's restaurant called 'Mary Ann'. In the fall of 1940 Margaret moved back home and married Jerry Hanson and moved to Brownsboro, OR.. Jerry and Margaret had one daughter, Jerilyn Watson.

Jerry and Margaret lived in Brownsboro all their married life. Throughout their marriage, Margaret worked along side her husband Jerry. The first three years they worked for the Forest Service during the summer months. Jerry worked trails and fire suppression and Margaret worked as a telephone operator. Living on a ranch was the greatest joy of all for Margaret. It was said that Margaret could get a calf to suckle when no one else could. One summer, as a child, she helped in the care and feeding of one hundred ducks. Margaret loved raising, feeding and nurturing animals.

The service for Margaret Hansen was held above her home off Obenchain Road in Eagle Point, at the Brownsboro Cemetery. Ron Walch gave the eulogy and over 120 guests shared in the service.

Family, neighbors and friends shared stories of Margaret - Her sense of humor, her joy for life, the love she had for her family, the country living and helping on the family ranch. Margaret Walch Hansen had touched many lives.

After the service everyone enjoyed a potluck and a time of remembrance.

Donald Earl Garrison

Donald Garrison was born October 30, 1941 in Medford, Oregon. He passed away August 1st, 2008.

Donny and Nina Garrison ran the Lake Creek General Store from May 5th 1998 to November of 2003.

The Garrisons were always friendly and supportive of the community. The Garrison's referred to their time at Lake Creek as some of the best years of their lives. They always promoted Oregon made items in the general store. Family was a very big part of Donny's life. Their son Tom was very active in helping with the family business.

During the Garrison's time in Lake Creek they shared in hosting many Antique Car Shows at the Lake Creek ball field. Donnie was a big fan of antique cars.

Donnie Garrison worked for many years at Bear Creek Corporation until Parkinson's Disease forced him to retire. Donald Garrison was put to rest August 15, at the VA Cemetery in Eagle Point, Oregon. Donnie is survived by his wife, Nina, brothers Otis and Curtis Garrison, stepsons Allan, Thomas and Gene Kitchen.

Below is a photograph of Nina and Donny visiting with family - grandson, grandmother, and sons Gene and Tom, who had stopped in for lunch.

John Woodrow Walch

John Woodrow Walch was born November 24, 1916 at the Walch family ranch, in Lake Creek, Oregon, to John Wesley and Marie Newstrom Walch. John Jr. passed away May 24, 2008, at his home in Ashland, Oregon, at the age of 91. John Jr. grew up in Lake Creek, and attended the Lost Creek School through the eighth grade. As a boy he worked on his father's ranch. In winter months he and his father ran trap lines in the mountains, and sold the furs for extra money.

John Jr.'s first job was working for the Forest Service on fire watch duty at look out stations. Later, he was put in charge of the Forest Service Pack Mules, for fires and building trails.

John Jr. went on to work in the lumber mills as a mill right. He spent 25 years in the Talent Mill. Then he went to work at mills in White City.

John Walch Jr. was a pioneer historian with extensive knowledge of history in Jackson and Josephine Counties, as well as Ashland and Lake Creek, where he grew up.

He loved to hunt and fish, he also enjoyed being in the mountains. John Jr. enjoyed photography and took many photos, of family, travels and nature. John was a man of few words, but when he spoke it was words of great wisdom and meaning. In 1942 at Ashland, Oregon, John Jr. married Betty L. Ring, daughter of Arch and Annie Ring of Ashland. In this marriage they had one daughter Peggy Ann, three granddaughters and three great-grand daughters.

After retirement, John Jr. and his wife Millie, of forty years, traveled across the United States and Mexico, and wore out 2 ½ motor homes. His last wish was that his health would improve so he and Millie could go on one more trip.

John Walch Jr. was a very devoted husband of forty years to his last wife Mildred, who survived him.

Other survivors include – Mildred's children, Richard Oelrich of Sweet Home, OR. Harvey Oelrich, of Salem, OR., Rodney Oelrich of Salem, OR. and Cindy Coffin of Dallas, TX.. One brother Lloyd Walch of Central Point, OR. sisters, Margret Hansen of Brownsboro, OR., Betty Lou Payne of Sams Valley, OR. and Shirley Stone of Lake Creek, OR. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Peggy Ann.

John Woodrow Walch was interned in Senic Hills Memorial Park in Ashland, OR.. Arrangements provided by Litwiller-Simonsen Funeral Home and the service was officiated by Pastor Jim Larsen of the Christian Church of Ashland.

'Those Living in the Uplands.'

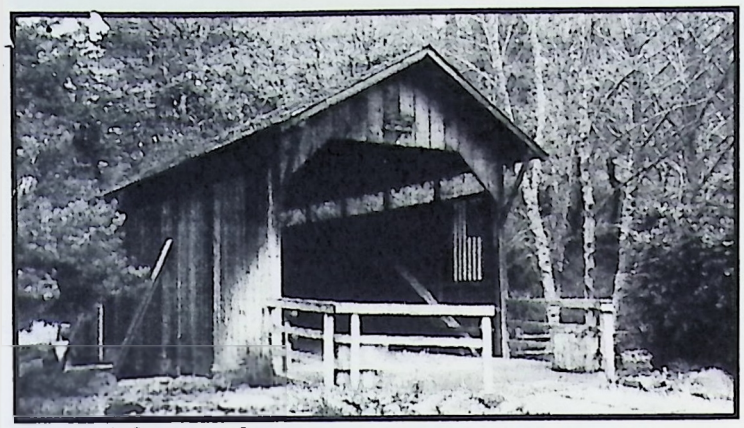
Long before the 20th century, in the Pacific Northwest, lived the native peoples, a richly varied social, economic and political nation. The Latgawa people, natives of Southern Oregon, were related to the Takelma families. They lived in the foothills from Grants Pass to Ashland and from Jacksonville to Butte Falls, extending beyond Prospect to Crater Lake.

The Latgawas were very spiritual people. Living and non-living things were held sacred and were celebrated through song and dance, drum and ritual. They decorated clothing with dentalia shells and tattooed their bodies for ornament. Obsidian and Shasta basket hats were highly prized items.

The Latgawas lived in small brush shelters during the warmer months. During winter months they built Pit Houses made of sugar pine tree slabs, similar to a log home. During winter months the Latgawas resided in the lower foothills, near major stream headwaters catching steelhead by line, net or spear. In the summer months they lived in the mountains following game. They hunted deer by running them into enclosures with traps. They harvested plant foods, such as camas root, various seeds and berries and acorn. In the fall the hunters would regroup with their elders at a lower elevation for the fall salmon run and prepare for winter. Life's journey was focused and full of purpose for the Latgawas.

Though many years have past the history of the first peoples of Oregon lives on. The Lake Creek Historical Society hopes you enjoyed taking a step back in time.

By Kathy Barlow



Photograph Courtesy of Jeannie Bruce

Lost Creek Covered Bridge

Pioneer Hall Lake Creek. Oregon

Photograph Courtesy of Bill Jackson

A Bill Jackson Production

Be A Part Of History - Join The

Lake Creek Historical Society

Please check the membership category below, and mail this form with your check to:

Lake Creek Historical Society
1739 South Fork Little Butte Creek Road
Eagle Point, Or. 97524

___	Family_____	$ 10 per year	___	Benefactor_____	$100 per year
___	Friend_____	$ 25 per year	___	Historian_____	$200 per year
___	Sponsor_____	$ 50 per year	___	Life Member_____	$500
___	Patron_____	$ 75 per year	___	Other_____	$_____

_____Yes! I want to be involved as a Lake Creek Historical Society Volunteer

LAKE CREEK CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 14, 2008

*****Its A Lake Creek Tradition*****

Doors open at 4:30pm; Eat at 5:30pm.

***Ham and Turkey will be provided.* Bring your favorite dish: Entrée, salad, or dessert.**

Children are asked to bring a gift for a child of the same age and exchange gifts at the party.